

Introduced by Senator Galgiani

January 6, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 75—Relative to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 75, as introduced, Galgiani. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease awareness.

This measure would encourage the State Department of Health Care Services, the State Department of Public Health, and other state entities to partner with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) stakeholders to improve education regarding COPD in the course of implementing the statewide strategic plan.

This measure would also designate November 2014 as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in California and encourage public officials and the citizens of California to increase awareness of the symptoms of, and the methods of preventing, COPD.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD),
- 2 also known as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the third
- 3 leading cause of death in the United States, claiming the lives of
- 4 over 138,000 Americans in 2010; and
- 5 WHEREAS, This is the 11th consecutive year in which women
- 6 have exceeded men in the number of deaths attributable to COPD.
- 7 In 2011, more than 72,000 women died compared to over 65,000
- 8 men; and
- 9 WHEREAS, American women are about twice as likely to be
- 10 diagnosed with chronic bronchitis as men. In 2011, 3.3 million

1 men (29.6 per 1,000 population) had a diagnosis of chronic
2 bronchitis compared to 6.8 million women (56.7 per 1,000
3 population); and

4 WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that
5 impacts an estimated 24 million Americans each year, including
6 an estimated 1.6 million residents of California who suffer directly
7 from the disease; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2010, the national annual cost for COPD was
9 estimated to be \$49.9 billion, including \$29.5 billion in direct
10 health care expenditures; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2006, the Office of Statewide Health Planning
12 and Development reported that hospitalizations associated with
13 COPD alone amounted to an estimated \$1.34 billion in medical
14 costs within the state; and

15 WHEREAS, Many patients suffering with COPD are not
16 diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of COPD,
17 which often includes a disabling degree of lung dysfunction; and

18 WHEREAS, A diagnostic test for COPD, known as spirometry,
19 is available for office use, allowing early diagnosis of COPD; and

20 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and management of COPD can
21 effectively reduce the overall financial burden of this illness on
22 publicly funded health care programs, including Medi-Cal; and

23 WHEREAS, Achieving early diagnosis and proper management
24 of COPD among California's diverse populations, within the
25 Medi-Cal program as well as other publicly funded health care
26 programs, requires overcoming cultural, language, and literacy
27 challenges; and

28 WHEREAS, Proper management of COPD can lead to an
29 improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for patients who
30 receive publicly funded benefits; and

31 WHEREAS, The "Healthy People 2020" project of the Centers
32 for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of
33 Health concludes that, while primary care physicians are in a key
34 position to provide optimal care to patients with COPD and to
35 provide counseling during clinical or health center visits, primary
36 care physicians need to be trained in the latest methods for
37 diagnosing and treating the disease; and

38 WHEREAS, The California COPD Coalition has developed a
39 comprehensive plan to address COPD in the state, entitled the
40 "Strategic Plan to Address COPD in California," which outlines

1 six goal areas, including all of the following: prevention, quality
2 of care, public health infrastructure and advocacy, surveillance,
3 research, and public education awareness; now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
5 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages the State
6 Department of Health Care Services, the State Department of
7 Public Health, and other state entities, whenever possible, to partner
8 with COPD stakeholders to improve education in California
9 regarding COPD in the course of implementing the statewide
10 strategic plan; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates November 2014 as
12 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in
13 California. The Legislature encourages public officials and the
14 citizens of California to increase awareness about the symptoms
15 of, and the methods of preventing, COPD; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
17 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.